

Connect



IT'S MIDDLE SCHOOL MONTH

This month, we focus on supporting and mentoring our middle school students. These younger students often deal with many of the same issues that challenge high school students. By the time they get to high school, some students are already substance users. As mentors, high school and college chapters can be instrumental in encouraging middle school students to practice substance-free lifestyles and vehicle safety. The middle school years are also a time when students try to fit in and are often the victims or perpetrators of bullying. Older students, who have successfully navigated the middle school years, can provide assurance, encouragement, information and skills to help younger students make positive decisions.



Sandy Grove Middle School SADD celebrates Red Ribbon Week with advisor Felicia Ellis (left).

If there is a middle school SADD chapter nearby, why not contact the advisor and plan a joint project with them? They will be excited to work together with high school students. You can also help start chapters in middle schools that don't have one. Even though March is Middle School Month, high school and college chapters can provide support for the middle school chapters all year. For ideas on projects and activities for Middle School Month, visit the SADD National website at <http://sadd.org/campaign/middle.htm>. 🍀

GET THE NEW SAB APP!

At last year's state conference, a number of students expressed interest in joining the Student Advisory Board (SAB). The application for the 2015-16 SAB is now online. We're looking for active, involved leaders. If you have a student that you think would be an asset to the SAB, please encourage them to apply. Sometimes students want to be on the SAB when they see current members at the state conference "large and in charge." They don't know about the Saturdays' schedule of five-hour mandatory conference planning meetings in Raleigh, donation solicitations or the possible request to present a workshop or represent SADD at an event. A member who does not drive must have the commitment of

March 2015

Issue 23

In This Issue

Middle School Month

SAB Membership

Drug Abuse Video Competition

Manteo High School

West Johnston High School

Registration Update

March Calendar

(Ctrl + click to follow links)

[Middle School Month](#)

[Sleep Awareness Week](#)

[Inhalants & Poisons Awareness](#)

[Kick Butts Day](#)

April Calendar

[Alcohol Awareness](#)

[Distracted Driving Awareness](#)

[STD Awareness](#)

[Safe Prom and Graduation](#)

[Global Youth Service Day](#)

[Youth Violence Prevention Week](#)

[Public Health Week](#)

Ideas? Questions? Concerns?

Contact

Harriett Southerland

919 807-4400

919-807-4415 fax

hsoutherland@ncsadd.org

www.ncsadd.org

Facebook: ncsadd

Twitter: @SADDNC

SADD National

www.sadd.org

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a parent or other adult to get them to the meetings. There will be four or five meetings before the November conference.

SAB candidates must be at least a high school sophomore in the 2015-16 school term. Any student on the board must be a good role model for other students and must practice a "no-use" lifestyle. Since conference planning is a major part of SAB duties, it is helpful if the candidate has attended a state conference. If this is not the case, but your student has good leadership and planning skills, encourage them to apply anyway.

The new application is fillable, so you can type directly into the form. Once completed, the application must be printed, signed and mailed. The deadline for applications is April 30, 2015. Ctrl+click [SAB App](#) to access the application. If you have questions or need more information, contact the state coordinator at hsoutherland@ncsadd.org or 919-807-4400. ♣

SADD ALUM WANTS OUR INPUT

As you know, prescription drug abuse is on the rise, especially among young people. Prescription drugs actually kill more people than illegal drugs. Each year in North Carolina alone, approximately 1,000 people die from prescription drug overdoses. Across the country, drug overdoses now kill more people than car wrecks. Former SADD leader Christy Agner (*insert right*) now works at the NC Department of Justice in the Office of the Attorney General. She contacted the state coordinator for SADD's involvement in the **Help Stop Rx Abuse** competition the Attorney General's Office and their prevention partners are sponsoring. Christy said, "We want SADD chapters to help warn other youth about the dangers of prescription drug abuse through our student video contest. This year, the contest is open to both high school *and* middle school students."

We would like as many chapters as possible to participate in this contest. Not only is this a great opportunity

to be involved in an important prevention project and highlight your chapter, you also have the chance to win one of these great prizes!

- ♣ High School 1st Place: iPad
- ♣ High School 2nd Place: iPod Touch
- ♣ High School 3rd Place: Amazon gift card
- ♣ Middle School 1st Place: Beats Headphones
- ♣ Middle School 2nd Place: \$100 Amazon Gift Card
- ♣ Middle School 3rd Place: \$50 Amazon Gift Card

To enter the contest, produce an original 30 second video, and upload it to YouTube. Send an entry form and an email that includes your chapter name (for example: Person High School SADD) and a link to your video to stoprxabuse@ncdoj.gov. Ctrl + click [here](#) to see the videos that won last year's contest. If you need more information, contact Nimasheena Burns at nburns@ncdoj.gov. Good luck, everyone! ♣

Christy Agner is a graduate of **East Rowan High School** in Salisbury. She recently talked about her involvement in SADD.

"Rowan County was a really spread out, rural county, and lots of kids got hurt in wrecks coming home from parties where they had been drinking. I wanted to be involved with SADD for two reasons. One is because personal safety and responsibility issues were actively discussed in my church youth group. The Pastor asked us to be leaders and start conversations in our communities about personal responsibility. The other reason is that I was involved in lots of school sports, and our school sponsored an assembly that featured a young man that had been very active in school activities and sports, but he had been in a horrific wreck due to drug use. Not only was he prosecuted, but he was kicked off sports teams and ostracized because he hurt his friends in the crash. I saw that and knew I didn't want to take a chance in screwing up my possibilities. I also realized that I didn't have the right to harm someone else because I made bad personal choices. It's just easier to say 'No' to drugs and never drink and drive."



SADD and East Rowan High are proud of Christy. **Go Mustangs!**

M

HOOPS FOR SADD

The Manteo High School SADD Club just wrapped up a successful fundraising project called "The Half Court Shot Challenge." They conduct this activity during basketball season. For permission to hold the event, advisor **Mark McKay** said he fills out a fundraiser form at the beginning of the school year. As the time for the Challenge approaches, the SADD Club puts up promotional flyers in the lobby of the gym. Mr. McKay explained how the Challenge works. "The varsity boys' game usually starts about 7:30 pm. This means that we start our challenge a little after 8:00 pm. During half time of the varsity boys' home basketball games, the SADD club takes center court. Contestants pay one dollar each to attempt a shot from half court. If the shot is made, the shooter wins five dollars. More often than not, the shot is not made. We have students and adults, both male and female, that participate.

We need a minimum of four volunteers per game. Two are rebounders; they get the missed shots and bounce the ball to a third person who is in the half court area. That person gives the ball to the shooter after the shooter pays the dollar to the fourth person. The fourth person does nothing but handle the money. We use two balls when we do the Challenge. These are the balls that the players use to warm up with before the start of the regular games.

Mr. McKay says he often kids with the coach about

HALF COURT SHOT CHALLENGE

\$1 per shot

\$5 a goal!

Half Time of the Varsity Boys Game




Promotional Flyer for the Challenge

keeping the players in the locker room at half time for as long as possible. "That's because half time only lasts ten minutes. As soon as the first team comes out of the locker room to warm up for the second half, we have to stop our challenge and get off the court," he said.



Club members pose after a successful event.

Front Row, L-R: Ryan Gorzowski, Kayleigh Cahoon, Justin Johnson. Back row: L-R: Advisor Mark McKay, Hannah Deringer, Brittany Nieman, Idasia Brickhouse, and Alisha Kershner. (Not pictured) Gracie Deichler



L-R: Club members Brittany Nieman, Gracie Deichler, Idasia Brickhouse and Ryan Gorzowski in action.

The SADD club uses the Challenge funds to help finance the many activities they do throughout the year to promote saying "No" to destructive decisions. "The event is also a good way to get the club out in front of the student body, and it helps to promote our message," said Mr. McKay.

What a great idea! Congratulations, Manteo SADD, on an innovative project. **Go 'Skins!** ♣

POMP AND PAGEANTRY AT WEST J



SADD members have some really creative ways to raise funds. In February, **West Johnston High School** (in Benson) held its second annual Mr. West J Pageant. The winner of the pageant and the new Mr. West J is none other than **Christion "Tre" Frederick**, our current NC SADD Student of the Year! The pageant was a joint effort of JoCo Teen Drivers (Johnston County's highway safety program), SADD and *FBLA. **Amanda Fisher** advises both SADD and JoCo. Planning for the event began in early December, and Ms. Fisher said that although it took a lot of planning, the results were "awesome." She said, "This is a



Tre Receives the Crown

pageant also made donations!

"There were 15 categories, and for a week at lunch, students voted for their favorite contestant in each category. We had a five-judge panel that judged the contestants throughout the pageant. Some things were judged on applause, but most were judged on a 1-10 point scale."

Ms. Fisher said that the event is not only about the money, but the school spirit and togetherness it brings. She said, "We had over 400 people come to the show this year! The whole school was talking about it and cannot wait for us to put on another one next year. We made over \$1,500 dollars, and \$600 of that went to JOCO and SADD! It was a blast!"



The Contestants

school-spirited event to raise money *and* promote teen safe driving in a fun way. We advertised the pageant on our website and around school with poster's, flyers and announcements over the intercom in the mornings.

The students nominated boys who represented different clubs in the competition and competed in the pageant to win money for the clubs they represented. Tre competed for Chorus, so the Fine Arts department got \$150.00 dollars when he won. To raise money for the different clubs, we sold \$5.00 tickets to attend the show, took donations and sold baked goods that were homemade by JoCo, SADD and FBLA members. On the night of the pageant, we had signs around the lobby promoting good decisions and a sign that said that we were dedicating the pageant to all the kids we have lost to bad decisions and traffic crashes." We had tables in the lobby with JoCo and SADD materials. All the students and parents that came out to the



Miss West Johnston, Abby Britt, with Mr. West J
Congratulations, West Johnston, on an imaginative project! Congratulations Tre! **Go Wildcats!** 🍀

WIN \$25,000!

**State Farm
NEIGHBORHOODASSIST®**

Our friend Kim Conyers at State Farm — the Celebrate My Drive lady — told us about another opportunity for our chapters to win grant funds to address key issues faced by their communities. From March 9-29, 2015, State Farm Neighborhood Assist will offer a Facebook based opportunity to win a \$25,000 program grant.

If you have a Facebook account, you are eligible to submit a cause, and each Facebook user can submit up to three causes. Ms. Conyers says it is better to submit early, as no more than 4,000 submissions will be accepted. Please remember that your cause must fit into the categories of safety, education or community development.

At the conclusion of the submission phase, the State Farm Youth Advisory Board (YAB), will choose 200 finalists. The YAB will evaluate the causes based on:

- ♣ How much does your “Cause” focus on an unmet need in this community?
- ♣ Why do you feel the \$25,000 would address the unmet need?
- ♣ How much of a lasting impact on this community would the proposal have?

The voting stage will last from May 14 – June 3, with each Facebook user getting 10 votes per day. The 40 causes with the most votes will each win \$25,000 grants to help create safer, better educated and more engaged communities! ♣

For more detailed information on the program, visit www.statefarm.com/NeighborhoodAssist (Facebook login required). ♣

GET ON BOARD!

Registering your chapter is one of the most important things you’ll do this school year. Many of our chapters are not registered with SADD National. In order to know how many chapters exist, we must have a registration update each year. If you really can’t find the time to register your chapter, and all your information is still the same, send an email to the state coordinator at hsoutherland@ncsadd.org, and notification will be forwarded to the national office. ♣

